Applicants: Lee et al.

Appl. Serial No.: 10/007,253

Filing Date: October 24, 2001

Amendment and Reply to Office Action

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Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 47 spanning lines 10-15 with the following amended paragraph:

In still another preferred embodiment, the rhodamine dyes of the invention are compounds according to structural formula (**Ib**) in which rhodamine-type parent xanthene ring Y is selected from the group consisting of (Y-1), (Y-2), (Y-3) and (Y-4), where R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R⁶, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰ and R²¹ are as previously defined, and either [[R³]] R³ or R⁴ indicates the point of attachment of substituent L. When substituent L is attached to [[R³]] R³, R⁴ is as previously defined. When substituent L is attached to R⁴, [[R³]] R³ is as previously defined.

Please replace the paragraph on page 53 spanning lines 5-9 with the following amended paragraph:

In yet another preferred embodiment, the rhodamine dyes of the invention are compounds according to structural formula (**Ib**) in which Y is selected from the group consisting of (Y-1), (Y-2), (Y-3), (Y-4), where substituent L is attached to [[R^{3'}]] R³, or one of the following group of compounds, where R⁹ is as previously defined for structural formula (Y-1) and the dashed line at the nitrogen atom indicates the point of attachment of substituent L:

Please replace the paragraph on page 56 spanning lines 11-13 with the following amended paragraph:

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Z is selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkanyl, (C_5-C_{10}) aryl, phenyl, naphthyl, naphth-1-yl, naphth-2-yl, pyridyl and purinyl, where in structures (Y-1) through (Y-4) L is attached to $[[R^3]]$ R^3 .

Please replace the paragraph on page 67 between lines 6 and 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Scheme V

DD/AD-L'-F_x

140

(Fyr
$$^{+}$$
)

S-Z'-L-R⁴¹-L"-DD/AD

(IIIa)

L-R⁴¹-L"-DD/AD

E

S-Z

(Pyr $^{+}$)

(IIIb)

Please replace the paragraph on page 71 spanning lines 14-17 with the following amended paragraph:

Y is a compound according to structural formula (Y-1), (Y-2), (Y-3) or (Y-4), where L is attached at position [[R^{3'}]] \underline{R}^3 , or is a compound according to structural formula (Y-20b), (Y-21b), (Y-22b), (Y-23b), (Y-24b), (Y-25b), (Y-31b), (Y-34b), (Y-35b), (Y-36b), (Y-39b), (Y-41b), (Y-42b), (Y-43b), or (Y-46b);